

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing of the above-identified application. In particular, passage barrier has been changed to flow-channel separator in order to more particularly describe the invention. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner approves the corrections.

Attached to this Preliminary Amendment are replacement sheets in order to similarly relabel the passage barrier to flow-channel separator.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for consideration and allowance. Consideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

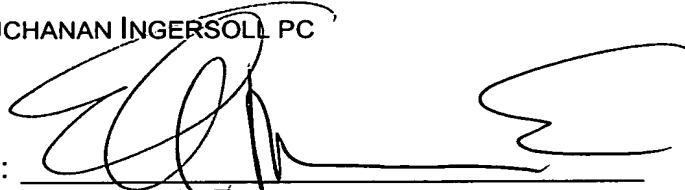
If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

By: 
Ellen Marcie Emas
Registration No. 32,131

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620